

June 18, 2002
Budget Work Session

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: 5 MEMBERS ABSENT 0

Thomas Y. Wooten- Chairman
Lloyd Davis - Vice-Chairman
Josh Baity -Commissioner
Bent Hunter - Commissioner
Johnny Myers-Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT:

Cecil E. Wood, County Manager/Clerk to the Board

Minutes

Chairman Wooten called the recessed meeting back to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mark Gentry, Chairman of the Board of Education, Dr. Todd, Superintendent and Gayle Hill, Finance Officer discussed the Board of Education's request for funding.

Dr. Todd explained the Board of Education's efforts to reduce this year's request as compared to last year's; this request being \$277,900 less. The school system has lost 13 teaching positions, however they are not hiring until more is known about the state's budget. They are moving positions to the state payroll where possible.

Chuck Goad, Information Services Director, discussed with the Board long range computer needs for the county. The county should conclude hardware improvement during the next year and then proceed with software enhancements for the county. It was pointed out the need for a strategic plan to guide software enhancements.

Phyllis Adams, Tax Administrator, helped Mr. Goad explain future tax department software needs; estimated costs could exceed \$400,000.

Mr. Larry Adams and Mr. Goad discussed the centralized permitting process proposed for the county. IIS is presently developing the software for this program and everything should be completed and ready for implementation by January 1, 2003.

The Board stated its desire to proceed with the program implementation for early January. The Board added \$30,500 to the proposed budget to cover these costs.

Chairman Wooten called for a break.

The Board had general discussion concerning the budget.

Chairman Wooten asked the Commissioners for any suggestions.

Commissioner Baity made the following suggestions: cut travel \$65,000, delete the four paramedics in the EMS budget and require the supervisors , department trainer and the department head to fill in for absent employees, remove the full-time secretarial position in the Fire Marshal's office and allow that person to work half-time for the Fire Marshal and half-time for EMS for billing purposes, remove the \$50,000 for East Bend, cut the \$30,000 for economic development which goes to the Chamber and bring economic development back under the county to be more accountable, cut \$300,000 from the 5-D Project, cut one building inspector, cut general government and public safety by 2%, no vehicle purchases and propose a 2 ½ % raise for employees. This would result in approximately \$700,000 in savings.

There was general discussion by the Board concerning these cuts.

It was agreed to look into the EMS schedule, give the Fire Marshal and EMS a half-time position.

*Commissioner Baity made a motion to bring the economic development program under the county's organizational structure. Commissioner Hunter seconded. **The Board voted 2-3. Commissioner Wooten, Davis, and Myers opposed.**

The Board agreed to meet with members of the Chamber Board of Directors to discuss the economic development program.

The 5-D Program cuts were not considered.

*Commissioner Baity made a motion to cut a building inspector position. Commissioner Hunter seconded. **The Board voted 2-3. Commissioners Wooten, Myers and Davis opposed.**

*Commissioner Baity made a motion to cut 1% out of general government and public safety. Commissioner Davis. **The Board voted 3-2. Commissioners Wooten and Myers opposed.**

*Commissioner Myers made a motion to postpone all vehicle purchases until the county receives financial relief from the state. This motion does not include the EMS chassis request. Commissioner Baity seconded. **The Board voted 4-1. Commissioner Wooten opposed.**

The Board recessed until June 26th at 6:00 p.m.

Cecil E. Wood, Clerk to the Board/
County Manager
